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There's a Reason

A Woman Never Does.

A loafer on the street, whose wife was probably at home getting out a neighbor's washing to make money to buy the children's shoes, asked a busy man the other day if he ever saw a baldheaded woman.

"No, I never did," replied the busy man. "And I never saw a woman waltzing around town in her shirt sleeves with a cigar in her teeth and running into every saloon she saw. Neither did I ever see a woman sitting all day at a street corner on a dry goods box telling people how the secretary of the treasury should run the national finances. I have never seen a woman go fishing with a bottle in her pocket, sit on the bank all day and go home drunk at night. Nor have I ever seen a woman yank off her coat and say she could lick any man in town. God bless 'em, the women are not built that way."—Kansas City Journal.

The Game of Whist.

Whist is thought to be of English origin and a development of the game trump, or triumph, which was played in England in the time of Henry VIII. Whist was not mentioned by Shakespeare or the writers of his day. Its earliest record is in the poems of Taylor, the water poet (1621). It is spoken of in the second edition (1890) of Cotton's "Compleat Gamester" as "the game of whist, so called from the silence that is to be observed in the play," but as whist seems to have been its original name, according to some authorities, this derivation is not assured. The game was at first nine up. This was changed to ten up early in the eighteenth century, and in 1804 the experiment of dividing the game into half, which was first tried as early as 1785, was generally adopted by the clubs.

How Swallows Build Nests.

Swallows and house martins build by sticking together pellets of prepared mud. Most of the material is obtained from the drying puddles on the high roads. If not mixed with anything else the tendency of these pellets would be to crumble when dry. But the swallow tribe is supplied with a mucous secretion which enables it to gum the particles together. The swallows' nests, from which the Chinese birds' nest soup is made, are constructed of this mucous matter only. An Indian swallow, which builds little boat shaped nests against the trunks of lofty trees, practically makes them of dried saliva.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Worse Than a Battle.

The Rev. Dr. Joseph Parker of the City temple, London, once had a collection made, to the announcement of which he added with deep pathos, "Widows and orphans will not be expected to contribute." A few Sundays later there was another collection for the same object. "This time," said the preacher, "nobody will be exempt, for no battle ever made so many widows and orphans as the announcement made on the previous Sunday."

Bathing the Eyes.

Bathing the eyes with equal parts of which lemon and water is very useful to them, or bathe them with warm water in which are dissolved a pinch of powdered borax and two or three drops of spirits of camphor. A soft linen cloth, used for no other purpose, is better than a sponge for bathing the eyes. The eyes should be washed every night to remove any dust that might have gathered on the lids during the day.

He Bit.

He (at the window)—It's very cheerful within, but awfully disagreeable without. She (coolly)—Without what? He (inspired)—Why, without you, darling.

And a few weeks later a furniture installment house was called upon to open a new account.

The Danger.

"Do you think, doctor, that indolence necessarily tends to obesity?" "Um—not necessarily, perhaps, but when people do nothing but take up room they are quite likely to find it difficult—er—not to overdo, don't you know?"

Cause For Pity.

We hear much about broken hearts in this world, but the lists of broken brains and genuses is greater. Almost every day we have to pity the man who carries his mind in a sling.—Tolled Blade.

The Hand That Rules.

She—It is comforting to me to know that woman's hand rules the world. He—Yes, but you must not forget that man's hand holds it much of the time.

Pointless.

Scribbles—You sit on every joke I submit to you. Editor—Well, if they had any point to them I wouldn't.

Bookmakers' Chances.

Layers of odds at the race track are prone to circulate tales of their enormous losses upon certain races, but it is seldom that a loss on a run may be shown, for it has been figured by experts that a skillful layer makes a book showing a percentage of 25 in his favor, by which he is bound to retain at least one-fourth of his takings. Large losses happen occasionally when an unexpected victory pays 40 or 50 to 1, but, as a general thing, unless the bookmaker deliberately gambles with chance he "makes books" so that he will show a profit on each race. A skillful bookie can so manipulate the odds that at no point does he stand to lose on a race, and, like his brother of the gambling house, his profit lies in this percentage in his favor. Even where gambling games are run without recourse to fraud the odds in favor of the dealer are never less than 20 per cent.

A Bird in the Hand.

It is impossible to trace the earliest use of the proverb "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush," which in various forms of expression is common to many countries.

In middle English we find phrases which have the same purport. Thus in Hille's "Commonplace Book" (1530) we find, "A byrde yn honde ys better than three in the wode," and in Rhode's "Babees' Book," also of early date, "A byrd in hand *** is worth ten fye at large."

No doubt our modern version springs from these old saws, and it is possible that they may have originated in the quaint remonstrance of one Will Somers, a jester in the court of Henry VIII., to whom Lord Surrey, in gratitude for many a good turn, had given a kingfisher from his aviary. When Surrey sought to recover it, promising to replace it another day, the sapient jester is said to have declined, saying, "I prefer one bird in the hand to two in the bush!"

The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus.

The seven sleepers of Ephesus were Constantine, Dionysius, John, Maximian, Malchus, Martinian and Serapion, seven young men, converts to Christianity, who during the persecution of Christians under the Emperor Decius, A. D. 250, refused to bow before an idol set up by the emperor at Ephesus. The story goes that they fled to a cave in Mount Cellon and that Decius, in his rage, ordered all caves in that mountain to be sealed up. Nothing was heard of them for 230 years, when they were discovered by some workmen who were digging foundations. Awakening from their long sleep, they offered coins of such antiquity that the attention of the authorities was attracted. They did not long survive and their bodies were taken for burial in a large stone coffin to St. Victor's church, Marseilles.

Strength of Treasury Notes.

A single treasury note measures three and one-eighth inches in width by seven and one-fourth inches in length. It will sustain, without breaking, lengthwise, a weight of forty-one pounds; crosswise, a weight of ninety-one pounds. The notes run four to a sheet, a sheet being eight and one-fourth inches wide by thirteen and one-half inches long. One of these sheets lengthwise will suspend 108 pounds and crosswise 177 pounds. It will be noted that a single note is capable of sustaining, crosswise, a weight of ninety-one pounds, which is twice the amount by nine pounds of the weight the note can sustain lengthwise, while, in the case of the sheet, the crosswise sheet lacks thirty-nine pounds of double the sustaining power of the lengthwise sheet.

Napoleon's First Cause, Mud.

That man is made of mud by spontaneous generation under the sun's heat was the deliberate opinion of Napoleon, first of the moderns, if General Gouraud can be believed.

Referring to ancient civilizations in the east, Napoleon one day said to Gouraud:

"All this leads me to think that the world is not so very old, at least, as inhabited by man, and within one or two thousand years I am disposed to accept the chronology appended to the sacred writings. I think that man was formed by the heat of the sun acting upon mud. Herodotus tells us that in his time the slime of the Nile changed into rats and that they could be seen in process of formation."

Cerberus' Three Heads.

The most famous of dogs is Cerberus, who watches the entrance to Tartarus. He has three heads, but Hercules dragged him to earth and Orpheus put him to sleep with his lyre. The original dog cakes were given to Cerberus by the sibyl who led Aeneas through hell. They were made of flour and seasoned with poppies and honey. He must have been an opium fiend, as the celestial drug is made from poppies. A "sop to Cerberus" was one of these cakes given to the monster by Greeks and Romans as a bribe to let them in without molestation.

Chequers Inn Fire.

The Chequers Inn at Slapstones, near Osmotherly, must be unique among English inns in one respect. It boasts of a fire which for more than a century has never been allowed to go out. The place is a quaint little building, to which many visitors resort on account of its never extinguished fire and the turf cakes baked upon its hearth. It has been in the occupation of one family for over 100 years.

Always on the Watch.

Children have ears like the very spies of nature itself—eyes that penetrate all subterfuge and pretense. It is good to set before them the loftiest ideals that have lived in human reality, but the best ideal of all has to be portrayed by parents in the realities of home life at home. When you are not watching and the children are—that is when the lessons are learned for life.

Caustic Whistler.

James MacNeill Whistler is said once to have confronted Oscar Wilde—at the height of the aesthetic movement—with Du Maurier, who was satirizing the Postlethwaites in Punch with all his might, and to have genially inquired, "Which of you two invented the other?"

Friendship of Books.

The first time I read an excellent book it is to me just as if I had gained a new friend; when I read over a book I have perused before it resembles the meeting with an old one.—Oliver Goldsmith.

In Greenland the candlefish is used as a lamp. It is about six inches long and burns for fifteen minutes.

An Old Freedom Notice.

On April 20, 1800, a Maine newspaper contained the following notice: "Freedom Notice.—For a valuable consideration I have this day relinquished to my son, Hiram S. Maxim, his time during his minority. I shall claim none of his earnings or pay debts of his contracting after this date. Isaac Maxim, Witness, D. D. Flynt, Abbot, April 13, 1800." The lad who was given his liberty developed into Sir Hiram Maxim of London, England, the inventor of rapid fire guns and airships.

Shibboleth.

Shibboleth is a word frequently used in politics, though it may be doubted whether many politicians know the history of it. Curiously enough, this Hebrew word really means "an ear of corn" as well as a "river," but its significance for moderns arises from the fact that it was employed as a test to distinguish the Ephraimites from the Gileadites, the former being unable to pronounce the "sh" sound.

Chewing Gum For Nosebleed.

A celebrated physician has claimed in one of his lectures that the "best remedy" for nose bleed is a vigorous motion of the jaws as in the act of chewing. In the case of a child he recommends giving a wad of paper to chew, as the rapid working of the jaws stops the flow of blood. But why not try chewing gum instead of paper?—Western Medical Review.

Contrary.

Little Clarence (a youthful Solomon)—Papa, nobody can never tell what a woman will do next, can they? Father—No, my son; and if you could tell it would not be advisable for you to do so, for if you did she would be sure to do something else.

A Matter of Taste.

"What," says an inquisitive young lady, "is the most popular color for a bride?" We may be a little particular in these matters, but we should prefer a white one.

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